



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor

Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

May 14, 2015

Jake Ladzinski
Mackie Consultants LLC
9575 W. Higgins, Suite 500
Rosemont, IL 60018

RE: Proposed Fill Improvements - SW Corner of Bartlett Road and Spitzer Road
IDNR Project #1510883
County: Cook

Dear Mr. Ladzinski:

This letter concerns the consultation for grading improvements for fill operations in Cook County, Township 41 North, Range 9 East, Section 32. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The project will grade a former sand and gravel mine to complete fill improvements on the site. The existing buildings on the eastern portion of the site will eventually be demolished, and the property will be filled over a number of years. The existing low point in the central southern portion of the site will be maintained and utilized as a storm water detention basin. No other proposed development is planned for the property at this time.

The Department has completed its review of the project and concluded that the State-endangered Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) could be adversely affected. The state-listed turtles, which occur in the vicinity of the site, are known to nest at mining sites. They hibernate in wetlands and, depending on the temperature, generally emerge in the spring with nesting occurring in June.

To determine if turtles are using the area, we recommend that a biological survey be conducted. A trapping survey in surrounding wetlands should be conducted in April and/or an on-site nesting survey should be conducted from late May to the end of June.

If a survey documents that turtles are using the site, there is the potential for a prohibited take of the animals, which is a violation of the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act*. If turtles are found, the Department recommends that you apply for Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) for Blanding's Turtle in accordance with *17 Ill Adm. Code Part 1080*

(copy attached). Communication concerning the ITA application should be directed to Jenny Skufca, Office of Resource Conservation, 217-557-8243 or Jenny.Skufca@illinois.gov.

If turtles are not nesting at the site, the Department recommends the following protective measures:

- Educate personnel working on site about Blanding's Turtle. Post photos of juvenile and adult Blanding's at a central location.
- Install exclusionary fencing (making sure it is dug into the ground) to prevent turtles from entering the construction area.
- Conduct daily inspections for transiting turtles. If a Blanding's Turtle is encountered, crews should stop work and allow the turtle to move out of the way or call IDNR at 630-553-1372.

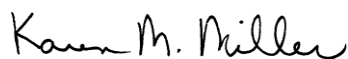
Consultation under *17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075* is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,



Karen Miller
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
Phone (217) 785-5500
karen.m.miller@illinois.gov

cc: Jenny Skufca, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR